

# SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# THE MESSENGER

MAILED SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

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### DEAR FAITHFUL PARISHIONERS,

I was so happy to see the wonderful turnout and engaged participation in our Celebration of L.I.F.E. at St. Michael's on Sunday, September 10. I am not sure I have ever seen such excitement at a Stewardship Forum! Perhaps we need to have more Forums in the Parish Hall with festive decorations and snacks at every table. I loved seeing the diversity of ages and mix of people involved in varied ways in the ministries of the church. Thank you again to the Stewardship Team: Lynda Garner, Aaron Gibbons, Nancy Parker, Jen Street and Jeff Swart. If you were not able to attend, mark your calendars for the next Stewardship Forum scheduled for Sunday, October 8, at 10:10 am in the Nativity Hall.

There were eight full tables of conversation focused on two questions. The first question was, "What does generosity mean to you?" We heard a recap from each table that included comments about generosity being something that you do without thought of what you will receive in return. There is a strong ethos that Fr. John Scannell ingrained into the hearts and minds of people at St. Michael's: *Never resist a generous impulse*. We also heard that generosity is recognizing that all we have is from God, who created a world of abundance, and that generosity is a state of Grace.

The second question was particular to where you were seated. Two tables had questions relating to each letter, 'L', 'I', 'F' and 'E'. Our 'L' for Labor tables discussed the question, "When has your labor made you feel connected to God and to God's people?" Some of our youngest participants shared about how doing chores at home makes them feel more a part of the family!

Our 'I' for Influence examined the question, "How do your gifts of influence and advocacy interact with your own Baptismal Covenant?" The examples offered by folks at this table were subtle ones, including sharing a smile and interacting with people throughout the day. Other examples were specific to respecting the dignity of every human through our work in various ministries at St. Michael's.

The 'F' for Finance table talked about how we prioritize our giving when the needs can be limitless. There was a consistent theme around giving to the places that pull on our heart — the places that offer a tangible symbol of our care and concern.

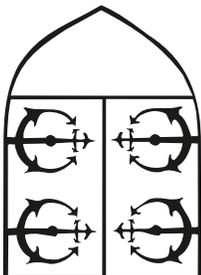
And finally, the 'E' for expertise shared stories about when someone else's gift of expertise made a difference in their life. There were wonderful stories about how the people at St. Michael's have shaped those who come into our community, forming us into more welcoming and hospitable individuals.

L.I.F.E. is certainly celebrated at St. Michael's and as always, I am most grateful.

Faithfully,

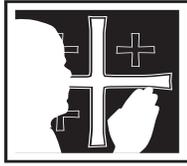
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Craun" with a small cross symbol at the end.

The Rev. Christopher Craun



## YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED . . .

- + for healing and comfort for **Ray Baker, Maureen Flynn, Carol Loe and Joan Meyerhoff.**
- + for the repose of the soul of **Mary Holland**, who died on September 12 at the age of 103.
- + for the repose of the soul of **John Stevenson**, who died on September 2, and for his daughter and son-in-law **Gloria and Mitch Orellana.**
- + for the repose of the soul of **Glenn Eaton**, who died on August 27, and for his wife **Rosemary Eaton.**
- + for the repose of the soul of **Audrey Hargraves**, who died on August 27, and for her daughter and son-in-law **Ann Hargraves and Peter Sergienko.**
- + for the repose of the soul of **Bill Lindquist**, who died on August 20, and for his stepson and daughter-in-law **Tim and Nina Shields.**
- + for the repose of the soul of **Max Grandfield**, who died on July 10, and for his daughter and son-in-law **Julie Grandfield and John Wiener.**



*In life we are in the midst of death, O God, and in the presence of your beloved child we see that death cannot separate us from your love. Pour out your spirit of love upon all of whom we love, especially those whom we cannot be with or see no longer, that we may find comfort and strength in our trust of your goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE ALSO ASKED ...

- + in thanksgiving for the weddings on August 26 of **Doris N. López and Marvin E. Chávez**; and on August 19 of **Josh Sargent and Kaydian Lawrence and Yesenia Acosta and Enrique Ruiz.**
- + in thanksgiving for the XV Años of **Ana C. Solís** on August 19, **Rita Jazmin Serralta** on August 5 and **Ashley Rojas** on July 8.
- + in thanksgiving for the baptisms on August 20 of **Reinaldo Martínez, Adan Martínez and Marlen Martínez.**
- + in thanksgiving for **Ruth Adeline Hatfield**, who was born on August 16, and for her parents **Beth and Tim Hatfield.**

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## MESSENGER DEADLINE

Please note that the next Messenger will be mailed/emailed on Thursday, October 26. The deadline for articles is Monday, October 17. Articles may be emailed as attachments or in the body of an email to [glorio@stmaa.org](mailto:glorio@stmaa.org). Please contact Gloria at that address or at 503/284-7141 if you have any questions regarding Messenger submissions.

## ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S CORNER

As we head into a new program year, my mind is focused on some practical points about prayer at St. Michael's. At times, we discuss the deeper spirituality of prayer in sermons and Forums and small groups; but right now, I want to address some practical points about when and where and how prayer happens in our community. There are a multitude of places for praying at St. Michael's, from healing prayer to contemplative prayer to Taizé. I'd like to focus on three which are in development this season.

First is the Daily Office, the services of Morning and Evening Prayer from the prayer book which are designed to be used every day of the week. Part of my personal prayer practice involves chanting the Daily Office. The chant is similar to what you hear on Sunday morning in the Eucharistic Prayer, and for me, this kind of singing is one of the biggest things that grounds me in God's presence. Now that the choir year has started, we chant Evening Prayer together every Wednesday night at 6:30 pm before choir rehearsal begins at 7:00 pm. Currently, there's a handful of folks who are also learning this way of singing our prayers, and we've been gathering in the Chapel on Mondays at 9:00 am and 5:30 pm, and Tuesdays at 9:15 am and 5:30 pm. You can enter through the Chapel door on the Broadway side of the church. You can find the latest times by pulling down the *Worship* menu on our website and clicking on "When is the Daily Office being sung?" The chant is learned through call and response, so if you can sing, "And also with you" at the Eucharist, you can chant.

Second, at the Daily Office and at our Wednesday noon Eucharist in the Chapel, we offer up the prayers from our prayer list. There is a larger group which receives printed copies of our prayer list every season and email updates in between, and many of these people join in intercessory prayer from their own homes during the day and week to keep these requests close to our hearts. This practice brings us closer to God and one another. If you would like to be a part of this fellowship or if you have someone you want us to pray for, please send me an email.

Finally, a word about the Prayers of the People, which we pray during our Sunday services. Bonnie is also writing a bit about this in her article. I wanted to mention that I've been writing the prayers and confession for the past couple of seasons, and I welcome help in this if it's something you're interested in knowing more about. My goal in writing the confessions of sin is to phrase something differently each season, which helps us into a deeper understanding of what we're saying. This season, the phrase about our own private errors becoming the errors of the world is meant to help us think more about how our personal habits are connected to a larger injustice. If you have thoughts on this or our prayers in general, I'd love to chat more with you about them! Send me an email at [jmjoiner@gmail.com](mailto:jmjoiner@gmail.com).

— James Joiner

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE DEACON

A mob hurls racial slurs and hate along with threats of violence for their opponents. A hurricane whips across the state of Texas destroying everything in its wake. The skies are filled with smoke and ash. A call comes in the middle of the night and we learn that a loved one is ill, or worse, has died suddenly. In both our personal and our common lives, we can find ourselves struggling to come to terms with what is happening all around us. What are we to do? 1 Timothy 2:1-2 tells us to pray: *First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.*

In our Sunday liturgy, the Prayers of the People is the moment in which we offer prayer to God together with the whole congregation. The Prayers of the People are set within the context of the proclaimed Word in the reading of Scripture and the sermon and the acted Word in the celebration of Eucharist. These public prayers demonstrate our faith that God not only cares but acts. The movement of the Prayers of the People is from the world and universal Church to local churches and community, for individual and personal needs.

Here at St. Michael's, the prayers are generally led by lay ministers. We begin by offering prayers for a ministry in the Anglican Communion. This is a time to pray for the unity of the Communion which includes 165 countries and 85 million people! These prayers are followed by prayers for a ministry or parish here in The Diocese of Oregon. This is structured to include all congregations, all canonically resident clergy, the ministries and committees of The Diocese of Oregon as well as Diocesan staff. We conclude with prayers for those in need in our own parish and in our community.

At the conclusion of the Prayers of the People, we pass the Peace, which places our prayers in the context of a community of faith. In the sharing of the Peace, we acknowledge the communal nature of our faith and the importance of sharing the journey of faith with others. It is this conclusion which affirms that our desires, longings, needs, victories and celebrations of life are, indeed, part of a larger community.

Prayer changes us, especially when we pray together. If you have something that we should pray for as a people, stop by the Sacristy on Sunday before the service and speak with one of the clergy. You can email Chris, James or me in advance of the service.

— The Rev. Deacon Bonnie Stewart



## TREASURER'S NOTE

Hello, Friends! Summer is almost over, and historically that's a time of year during which giving drops off somewhat. We saw a dip in income during May and June, but we rebounded in July. Our total income for the year is over \$2,000 under budget; so if you're able to stay current on your pledges over the next few months, that will really help our financial well-being!

Our total operating expenses are over budget by about 3%. However, if we're over budget at the end of the year, we'll be able to access the Building and Music Restricted Funds to cover most of the overages related to music and building expenses. Overall, we're in an acceptable place financially, but there is slight concern about overall operating expenses being over budget and pledge income being under budget.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at [swart.jeffrey@gmail.com](mailto:swart.jeffrey@gmail.com). Thank you!

— Jeff Swart, Treasurer of the Vestry

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## ST. MICHAEL'S ENDOWMENT FUND

The Mission Endowment Fund was created at the Annual Meeting in 1992 to provide support for outreach work as well as other important needs in our community. The principal of the fund is held in perpetuity, and the fund income may be used for the following purposes:

- For scholarships and grants to members of St. Michael & All Angels for training which enables members to grow in Christian faith and service to God's people
- For outreach into the community
- For projects of the Episcopal Church
- For capital improvements, debt reduction or the building program of St. Michael & All Angels Church.

Each year, the Fund Committee invites members of our community to apply for grants. In 2016, the income distributions recommended to the Vestry and approved during the year included a grant to the youth group for their mission trip in NYC, grants to support those parishioners who worked with El Porvenir in Nicaragua, a grant to Village Support Network to support the transitions of homeless families, and a grant to support our *Día de los Niños* cross-cultural celebration.

The Mission Endowment Fund is our legacy and a means to affect the future. We would like to continue to grow this legacy so that we can accomplish even more! St. Michael's Day (celebrated on October 1 this year) is our traditional time of year to grow awareness of this very important ministry. We encourage you to make your commitment to our Mission Endowment Fund on St. Michael's Day or any time of the year.

— The Mission Endowment Fund Committee: Jennifer McBratney, Mick Seidl and Bob Spiers

## UPDATE ON LAWSUIT

As many of you know, in July, the parish was notified of a lawsuit filed against the parish by a former parishioner alleging that he was sexually abused in the early 1960s by a choir director working for St. Michael & All Angels at the time. This article will provide a brief update, as we want all of you to know that the parish is responding to the suit appropriately. As you know, these types of matters involve a process that is both lengthy and confidential.

We are very pleased that two of our parishioners, Mick Seidl and Peter Sergienko, are lawyers and have agreed to represent the parish at no expense to the parish. They are both very experienced lawyers, and the parish is in very good hands. Mick will be taking the lead in representing the parish because he handles litigation.

Mick and Peter will be discussing the aspects of the lawsuit that we can share with the community in a Forum in October. For now, we feel it is important for the community to know that the suit is not requiring the expenditure of any financial resources of the parish.

Presently, we are not able to determine whether the allegations made in the complaint are true or not. The choir director who is alleged to have engaged in the conduct died in 2001. The rector at the time also died many years ago. The plaintiff has not been a St. Michael's parishioner for many years. So while we take the allegations very seriously, we are dealing with allegations of things that took place, if at all, nearly 60 years ago.

At the same time, we understand that any allegations of this sort are painful and upsetting to the current congregation. Please know that we are doing all that we can to properly respond to a lawsuit that has nothing to do with the current operations of St. Michael's.

In the unlikely event you should receive a contact from someone about the case, please refer the contact to Mick Seidl, 503/740-0585. If you have any questions, Mick and Peter will be available to respond to them in the upcoming Forum.

— Chris Craun, Rector, and Tim Shields, Senior Warden

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## ALL SAINTS HELP

We have become accustomed to the “great cloud of witnesses” that enhances our All Saints Sunday celebration. These photos add a deeply personal and communal aspect to our worship. Lynda Garner is looking for help displaying these pictures this year. If you feel called to this endeavor or want to participate in other display projects (e.g., Pentecost) in the Nave, please contact her at [lyndagarner@comcast.net](mailto:lyndagarner@comcast.net) or 503/449-4278.

— Lynda Garner

## DREAM WEAVERS UPDATE



Thank you to everyone who has participated in the visioning process thus far! In August, led by Bruce Collins with the assistance of Lindsey Ramsey, our community created a map showing where home is for each of us and how we are engaged at St. Michael's and in the world. The combination of photos, words and pins gives powerful testimony to the breadth and depth of who we collectively are as the members of St. Michael's. If you haven't already seen it, be sure to take a moment to enjoy this inspirational map in the Parish Hall.

Coming up: fall Forums! Join us September 17 and 24 when we will engage in conversations about the flame cutouts (representing God's dreams for St. Michael's) that we created in June. We will also continue the discussion about our community's strengths, opportunities and aspirations, and the results we want to collectively achieve.

In October, we'll be kicking off a series of discussion groups, called *Wonders and Signs: Reflecting on Sources of Transformation in our Community*. Led by members of the Dream Weavers team, these events will explore what's happening at St. Michael's through four lenses: Life in Community, Study and Learning, Prayer and Worship, and Action. We encourage all members of the community to join us for one of these discussions. Dates and sign-up opportunities will be available soon.

Want more information about the visioning process? You'll find information on the church website ([www.stmaa.org](http://www.stmaa.org)) or find a Dream Weaver (Gladys Alvarado, Beto Arciniega, Bruce Collins, Chris Craun, Penny Hummel, Maria McDowell, Fabian Ramirez, Lindsey Ramsey and Tim Sackett) and ask us! Our plan is to complete the visioning process by Pentecost 2018.

— Penny Hummel, Chair

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## MONDAY BOOK GROUP

“... the weather service predicts that the cool down won't start until late September or early October.”

— The Oregonian, August 28, 2017

The Monday Book Group meets in the air-conditioned Raphael Room on the second and fourth Mondays from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. Surprisingly, the cool air is not the best feature of this gathering! The best thing would be the serious, respectful discussions about the books we read, currently Marcus Borg's *Speaking Christian, Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power - And How They Can Be Restored*. *Speaking Christian* is available in paperback. We will discuss Chapters 5 through 9 at the September 25 meeting. All are welcome whether you have read the chapters or not.

— Mickey Harnage for the Monday Book Group

## FALL MUSIC NEWS

The St. Michael's Singers are back! Candidates for the Choir Director position were interviewed and auditioned this summer, and our two finalists will be directing the choir over the next couple of weeks before a final selection is made just in time for St. Michael's Sunday on October 1st! The search for a new Takes the Fifth director continues as well, so expect more news in the next Messenger. Meanwhile, here are some dates to look forward to on the music calendar at St. Michael's:

- **Wednesday, November 1, 7:00 pm** — Choral Evensong for All Saints Day
- **Saturday, November 18, 2:00 pm** — Cascadia Chamber Ensemble presents a program of Mozart, Turina, and Rachmaninoff piano trios
- **Saturday, December 16, 7:00 pm** — Candlelit service of Lessons & Carols led by the St. Michael's Singers
- **Friday and Saturday, February 9 and 10** — annual Broadway Night fundraiser, *Live in Living Color*
- **Saturday, March 17, 2:00 pm** — Cascadia Chamber Ensemble offers Frank Martin's Piano Trio on Irish Folk Songs for St. Patrick's Day
- **Wednesday, May 30, 7:00 pm** — Choral Evensong to wrap up the choir season
- **Saturday, June 16, 2:00 pm** — Cascadia Chamber Ensemble's final concert of the season



Do you want to get involved in the music-making at St. Michael's? Contact me! Are you retired and looking to participate in a very active ministry at St. Michael's? Join the choir! Are you in high school and looking to hang out and sing with people who are a little more mature than your annoying classmates? Join the choir! Are you a lifelong choral singer with gobs of experience who misses the spiritual nuance of a church choir? Join us! Are you interested in joining the choir but need child care during Wednesday evening rehearsals? Contact me at [hannahcbrewer@gmail.com](mailto:hannahcbrewer@gmail.com) and it can be arranged!

— Hannah Brewer, Music Director/Organist

## OUTREACH AND JUSTICE

Together with Advocacy Action, this spring we offered parishioners lunch and a chance to hear some knowledgeable people discuss the refugee situation in Oregon and beyond. Jan Elfers of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and Yahye Kane of the SOAR Resettlement Program spoke about the obstacles facing refugees and the need to help. Thanks to generous parishioners in attendance, we were able to send much-needed funds to EMO and to Episcopal Migration Ministries.

This fall, we will be discussing deserving programs which could use our help as well. We try to send to smaller ministries for which our dollars would mean a great deal. One such organization is *Quilts for Empowerment*, a pathway for obstetric-fistula survivors in Kenya to support themselves after repair surgery. QFE was started in 2015 by a Portland quilter. Some of the beautiful work they do will be on display and for sale at the church later this fall. You are all welcome to become part of our discussions. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

— Lynn Baker and Susan Barnett, Co-conveners

### NIGHT STRIKE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

For 14 years, Operation Night Strike has been going under the Burnside Bridge and offering various services and fellowship to the homeless population downtown. On August 24, 19 youth and 10 adults from St. Michael's served Portland's most vulnerable population, and I have reserved 10 spots for adults to serve again on Thursday, November 2. Please contact me if you are interested in participating. Much more information is available on the Home Page at [www.stmaa.org](http://www.stmaa.org).

— Hans Carter

### IWC WORKSHOP

St. Michael's Immigrant Welcoming Congregation (IWC) and Latino Leadership Teams will jointly offer a workshop on nonviolent-intervention strategies on Sunday, October 8, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm in the Nativity Hall. The bilingual booklet, *Respuesta Rápida en Caso de Emergencia*, describes five kinds of situations in which St. Michael's Rapid Responders may be asked to show up should assistance be requested when individuals or families feel unsafe, threatened or at risk because of their immigration status. Workshop participants will learn about nonviolent interventions that can be used to diffuse situations and have an opportunity to witness and practice these interventions in different scenarios outlined in the booklet.

Priority for the training will be given to parishioners who signed up to be part of the Rapid Response Group, but all are invited to attend if space is available. The workshop is limited to 50 people. Please contact Dave Reilly at 503/347-5464 or at [cascadetamara@gmail.com](mailto:cascadetamara@gmail.com) as soon as possible if you are interested or to reserve your spot.

Bev Hoeffler for the IWC & Latino Leadership teams

## THE JOYFUL NEWS – FALL 2017

**Children & Families Ministry is an ever-widening circle of friends who gather to pray, to give thanks, to serve, to learn and to celebrate!** At St. Michael's, 2017 is proving to be *a year full of blessings*, also known as **lots of new babies in our congregation!** Eight babies (that we know of so far) are expected to arrive before the end of the year. Woohoo!! We are thrilled to welcome these beloved children of God into our hearts and our community. What a joy it is to watch all of our young people grow, discover their spiritual gifts and find their place at God's table and in the world.

**Traditional Days for Baptism:** St. Michael's Day, All Saints' Sunday, Feast of Jesus' Baptism, Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday and Pentecost. Contact Leslie Sackett for more information about baptism preparation.

**Childcare** is available year-round on Sunday mornings for infants and children up to five years old.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** is offered at the 9 and 11 o'clock services for young school-age children.

**Godly Play Classes** (Christian formation) for Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are held on the lower level during the 10 o'clock hour during the school year.

**Music Makers & Family Worship** happens at 4:30 pm on the third Saturday of the month during the school year. Families with young children gather in the Nativity Hall to sing, dance, and worship in ways the whole family can participate. Afterward, we move to the Parish Hall to share a delicious potluck dinner. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 21, and Saturday, November 18!

**Kids Connection** is for 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who get together for fun, fellowship and ministry enrichment. Next up, a trip to the Portland Art Museum on Saturday, November 4, to see *Animating Life: The Art, Science and Wonder of Laika*. More information coming soon!

### CHECK OUT OUR FALL CALENDAR!

September 17: Godly Play @ 10:10 am – *Circle of the Church Year*

September 24: Godly Play @ 10:10 am – *The Holy Family*

**October 1: St. Michael's Day Celebration**  
(no Godly Play today)

October 8: Godly Play @ 10:10 am – *Story of Creation*  
**(Blessing of the Animals at 12:15 pm)**

October 15: Godly Play @ 10:10 am – *The Flood & the Ark*

**Saturday, October 16 @ 4:30 pm: Music Makers & Family Worship Service – Potluck Dinner too!**

October 22: Godly Play @ 10:10 am — *The Great Family*

October 29: Godly Play @ 10:10 am — *The Exodus*

**Saturday, November 4 @ 10:00 am: Kids Connection! A Trip to the Art Museum – Laika Studio Animation**

**November 5: All Saints' Sunday** (no Godly Play today)

November 12: Godly Play @ 10:10 am – *The Ten Best Ways*

**Saturday, November 18 @ 4:30 pm: Music Makers & Family Worship Service – Potluck Dinner too!**

**November 19: Nativity Play Try-outs** for 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade @ 10:10 am (GP1: *The Exile & Return*)

**November 26: Advent Fair in Nativity Hall**  
(No Godly Play today)

— Leslie Sackett, Associate for Ministry with Children & Families

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## SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN WHO SHOULD TAKE THIS TRAINING?

- All members of the clergy, whether stipendiary or non-stipendiary
- All interns and persons in the ordination process
- All paid employees
- All wardens and Vestry members
- All volunteers (age 16 and older) who work with children and youth

The children entrusted to our care deserve the very best our faith community can provide. At St. Michael's, this means that we strive to create a safe and loving environment for children so they can learn and grow and participate as valued members of the Body of Christ. As part of our commitment to the children and families we serve, **we ask that everyone who works with children and youth attend Safeguarding God's Children** (SAFE Church Training) which is offered through The Diocese of Oregon.

### SAFE CHURCH TRAININGS IN PORTLAND THIS FALL:

- Saturday, September 30, 2017 – St. John the Baptist, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
- Saturday, October 21, 2017 – St. Stephen's, Portland, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Find more information and register online: <http://www.diocese-oregon.org/safe-church/>

Please contact Leslie Sackett, Associate for Ministry with Children & Families, at [leslies@stmaa.org](mailto:leslies@stmaa.org) if you have any questions or require any financial assistance to cover the \$10 fee which is collected at the training site.

## YOUTH NEWS!

### MEET THE ST. MICHAEL'S YOUTH GROUP LEADER COHORT

These leaders all have one thing in common - a passion for youth. They come from diverse backgrounds and bring different gifts to the table which offer the youth a variety of ways to connect. With the network of leadership, Rector Chris Craun is able to engage again with youth ministry and is excited to work with some of our recent high-school graduates to incorporate them into leadership positions as well. We decided to go "old school" and offer Youth Group every Sunday night from 6:00 to 7:30 pm beginning on September 17. We will have dinner together and then divide into middle school and high school conversation groups, each led by one of our cohort leaders. If you are not receiving emails with information of upcoming events and have a middle school or high school student you would like to be sure we have on our radar, please email [stmaayouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:stmaayouthgroup@gmail.com).

— Chris Craun

### JOHN LIDSTROM

John Lidstrom lives in NE Portland with his wife Tia, dog Sage and cat Teddy. He has been working with Episcopal youth ministry since he moved to Portland in 2009. He has worked with both middle and high school youth on weekly meetings, retreats and mission trips. Professionally, he is a nurse recruiter with Providence Health and Services. He graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science. John says, "I am excited to be a part of the spiritual formation of the youth of our community. My personal youth philosophy is to create a space where they can discover God's love and grow into passionate adults."



### LAURA NICHOLS

I am excited to be a part of Youth Ministry at St Michael's & All Angels, especially since I get to team up with my sister Claire who is also volunteering as a youth leader! A lifelong Episcopalian, my own youth group experience was an incredibly influential component to my middle school/high school years. As a result, I have become involved with youth groups in parishes where I've lived over the years, including Trinity Church Boston and All Saints Beverly Hills. When I am not at work, my happy place is to be outside hiking or kayaking. I love bringing my rescue mutt, Blue, along with me just about everywhere, so he is likely to be making a few youth group appearances this fall!



### CLAIRE NICHOLS



Growing up in Georgia, Claire Nichols jumped on any opportunity to hang out with her own youth group and other youth in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. She attended Camp Mikell, the Diocese of Atlanta's Camp & Conference Center, for 10 years as a camper and counselor; her favorite part was working as an interreligious youth counselor for a sister non-profit called Kids4Peace. Today, Claire is a Registered Dietitian at the Clark County Food Bank in Vancouver, WA, where she teaches adults and youth that cooking healthy can be delicious, affordable and fun! Outside of work, Claire can be found testing out new recipes in the kitchen, scoping new hiking spots, practicing yoga, expanding her vinyl collection, and luring friends into board games. She is thrilled to kick off a great year as one of the new youth leaders for St. Michael & All Angels!

### JENNIFER MCBRATNEY

Jennifer has been a member at St. Michael's for almost ten years. She has been a choir member and has volunteered in other aspects, most recently for Church Camp. She works at Portland Community College as the Scholarship Program Officer and is happy to bring higher education experience to the youth group at St. Michael's.



### RON WERNER

My name is Ron Werner, and I'm excited to walk alongside teens this year because I love when youth with distinctive interests from different schools and diverse backgrounds come together to listen, build relationships, make meaning, have fun, and act together in the world! By day, I'm an ELCA Lutheran pastor working for the synod (our version of a diocese) as a community organizer. I help start up and sustain neighborhood-based ecumenical youth ministries and accompany congregations in Sanctuary work with the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIj). By night, I throw the best living room dance parties with Dylan and Averie, my two young daughters, and Erin, my wife of 11 years. We've been a part of the extended St. Michael's community since we moved to Portland two and a half years ago after ten years of life and ministry in Bend.



ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1704 NE 43rd Avenue  
Portland, OR 97213-1402

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OFFICE HOURS

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**CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS**

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| SEPT. 16     | <b>End-of-Life Workshop</b>  |
| SEPT. 17, 24 | <b>Dream Weavers Forums</b>  |
| SEPT. 23     | <b>Choir retreat</b>   |
| SEPT. 24     | <b>Mission trip information night</b>  |
| OCT. 1       | <b>St. Michael's Day celebration</b>   |
| OCT. 8       | <b>Blessing of the Animals</b><br><b>Rapid Responders workshop</b><br><b>Youth outing to corn maze</b> |
| OCT. 9       | <b>Taizé Prayer Service</b>  |
| OCT. 12      | <b>Young Adult Potluck</b>   |
| OCT. 14      | <b>Stewardship saké tasting/karaoke</b>  |
| OCT. 15      | <b>Stewardship Kickoff</b>   |
| OCT. 21      | <b>Music Makers &amp; Family Worship</b>   |
| NOV. 1       | <b>Choral Evensong</b>   |
| NOV. 5       | <b>All Saints Sunday</b>   |
| NOV. 7       | <b>Episcopal 101 begins</b>  |

**RED DOOR ARTISAN FAIR**

Are you ready for the Red Doors Artisan Fair? It is coming up on Saturday, December 2, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Start your shopping list now! Tell all your friends who are crafters or artisans to sign up for a table starting at only \$15 for a round one or \$20 for a long one. Plans are in the works for a great lunch menu and wonderful goodies at the Bake Sale table.



Contact any committee member (Sundance Henry, Carolyn Lindberg, Tia Lidstrom, Marili Reilly and Sue Cushing), or contact Sheri at [sheri@oregondollhouse.com](mailto:sheri@oregondollhouse.com) or [503/706-2620](tel:5037062620) for more information.

— Sheri O'Brien

PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN, EBLAST, WWW.  
STMAA.ORG & DISPLAYS IN THE GALLERY FOR  
MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS.